

## **Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan**

### **Minute of the Hearing Panel**

#### **Minute 32**

1. In the course of its hearings of submissions in respect of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan's Omaka Valley Area Overlay, and its related policies, an issue has arisen as to the potential volumes of traffic generated by identifiable activities to the south of the Overlay area which may occur over coming years.
2. One of the most obvious activities identifiable is the apparent commercial forestry activity in plantations to the south of the Overlay area. However, the Panel has not received any detailed evidence as to those potential traffic volumes.
3. The Panel understands that the Marlborough District Council (Council) has been recently surveying likely traffic flow consequences from forestry plantings throughout the district. While some information may have been made available to Council in terms of binding nondisclosure arrangements, other information may be openly available which can be presented to the Panel in relation to this locality.
4. The Panel also understands, however, that in some areas what were potential commercial forestry plantations suitable at some stage for harvest may have been converted by formal contractual arrangements into 'carbon sink' plantings not intended to be harvested.
5. However, again the Panel has not received formal evidence in respect of the development of that practice.
6. Accordingly, the Panel requests assistance from Jon Cunliffe, Marlborough District Council's Resource Management Advisor, in providing it with information which is disclosable on the following matters:
  - i. What areas of commercial forestry plantation are known to Council, or are able to be reasonably calculated from aerial photography held by Council, to exist in the Omaka Valley south of the Omaka Valley Area delineated in the Overlay of the PMEP.
  - ii. What is known or able to be reasonably assessed as to the likely maturity and/or likely harvest dates of those plantations?

- iii. What is the estimated tonnage of logs potentially to be transported from those plantings on harvest, and what is the estimated time span that cartage would take to transport those logs to a port or processing facility?
  - iv. Are any of those existing plantations in that area believed by Council to be part of a 'carbon sink' and if so, how has that information become available to Council?
  - v. In general terms, describe what form Council understands the contractual arrangements of that nature take, who are the contracting parties, and whether such contractual arrangements are regarded as being immutable so that harvest and transport will not occur?
  - vi. If so, how are subsequent owners bound to those arrangements?
7. If possible the Hearing Panel would appreciate that information by Friday, 24 August, 2018 in time for it to be considered when the hearings resume on 3 September, 2018.

Dated 11 July 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Hook', with a small dot at the end.

Councillor Trevor Hook

Chair of the MEP Hearing Panel